

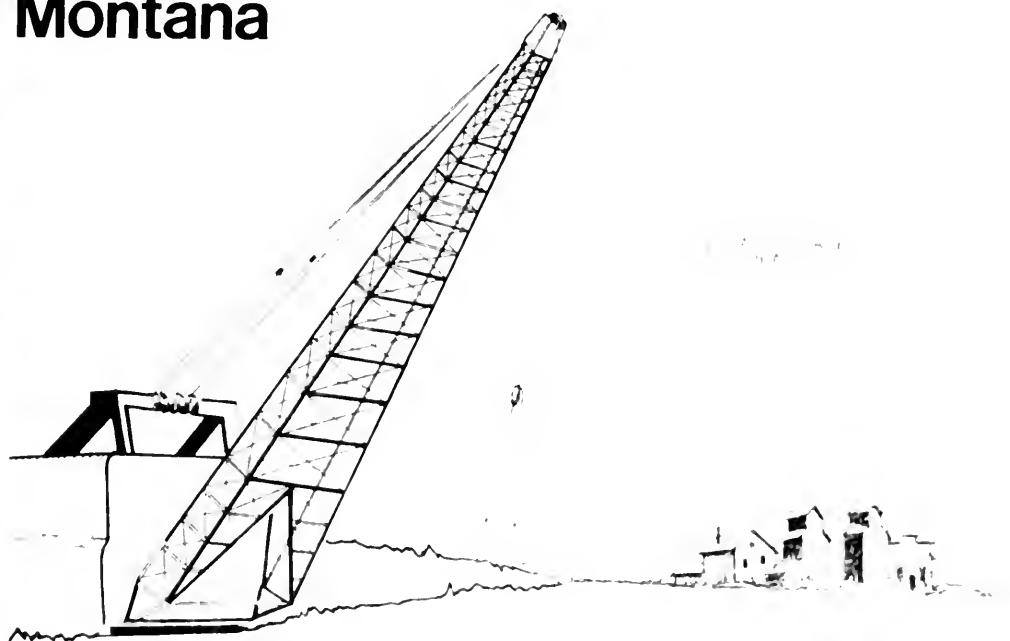
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COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

COAL IMPACT AREAS

Montana



Prepared for
MONTANA COAL BOARD
Prepared by
LARSEN & ASSOCIATES
Billings, Montana

GENERAL OVERVIEW

GENERAL OVERVIEW

In October 1979, Larsen & Associates, hereafter referred to as the Consultant, contracted with the Montana Coal Board to make an assessment of community needs in areas impacted as a consequence of large-scale development of coal mines and coal-using energy complexes. This assessment was to analyze the type and extent of assistance either desired and/or needed by the communities. In addition to the counties of Big Horn, Rosebud and Treasure, designated by the Department of Community Affairs as having coal development impact, the Coal Board requested a review of Custer and Powder River counties. Further, the communities of Bear Creek, Red Lodge, Laurel, Roundup, Miles City and Broadus were requested to be reviewed. The "work product" as stated in the Coal Board Contract, "will contain an analysis and recommendation as to regular administrative services to be supplied to impacted communities."

Inquiries were made of local officials concerning operational problems, local priorities for facility needs and their projections, planning, available information from which to make decisions, and whether or not field assistance from the Coal Board, or any other State Agency, would be desired. If field assistance was desired, is it currently available from existing state programs? Additionally, visits with ranchers, railroaders, businessmen, laborers, craftsmen, waitresses, motel operators, miners, planning and engineering consultants working in the area and a few students were helpful in gaining insight as to the concerns and problems in the aforementioned communities.

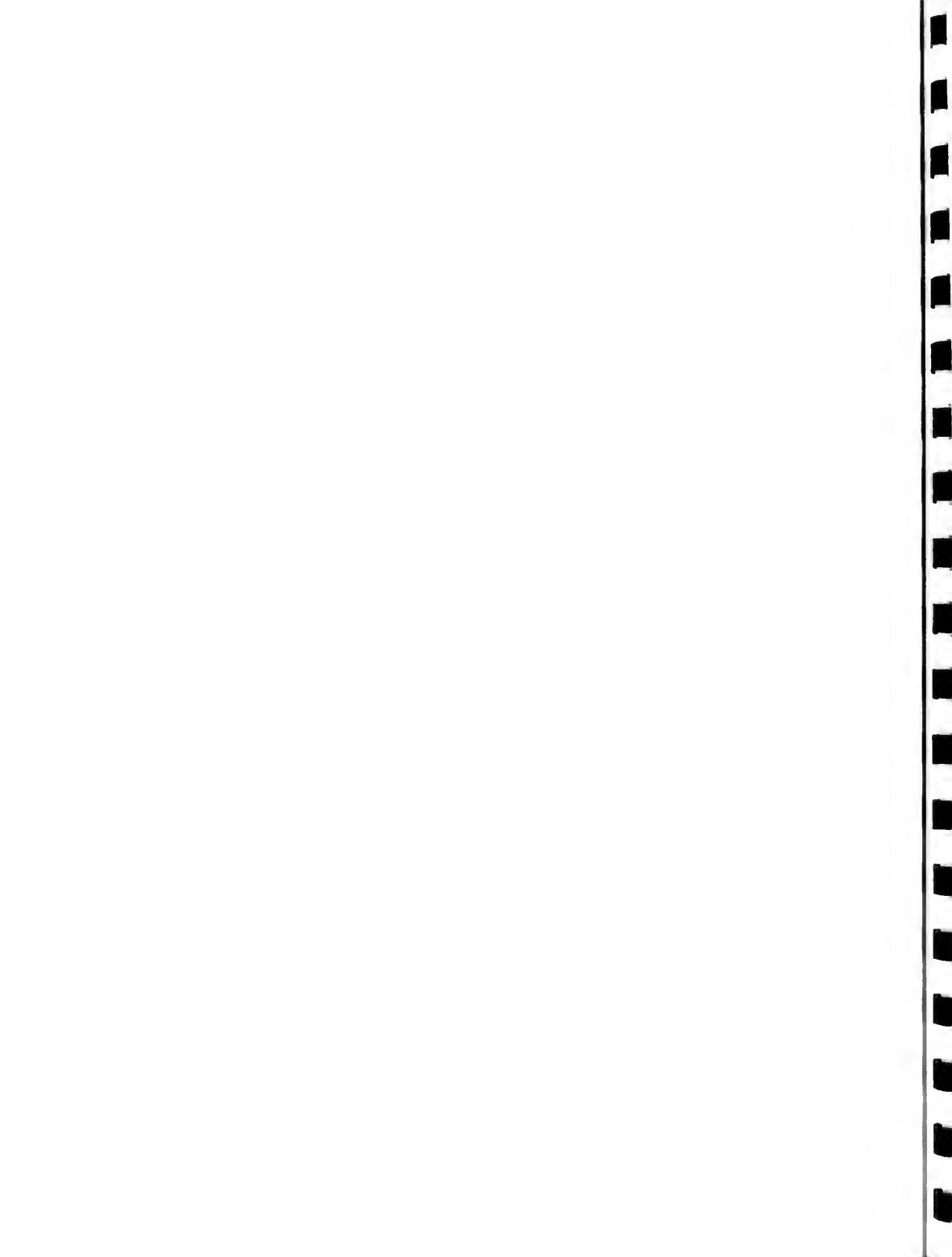
The initial impression received when traveling through coal impacted areas is one of mixed reactions. You know something is ~~happening~~ on but you cannot immediately put your finger precisely upon the object of your search. Activity surrounds some of the areas during the day while other communities see their impacts in the evening. Organized processes to address massive impact challenges are evident in some communities, while in other areas their problems appear to be overwhelming.

THUS THE MANY FACES OF COAL IMPACT

Many outstanding efforts are visible in some communities with people joining together to meet the demands created by the influx of people and their need for municipal services. However, the lack of cooperative efforts in a few communities have led to some serious local problems. Further, some local officials have not fully identified the total scope of the initial impact upon their jurisdiction nor have they fully grasped their priorities. This has created a situation where continual return to the Coal Board with incomplete data has compromised the deep and very real sincerity of the people trying to resolve serious and difficult challenges.

Conversely, Colstrip is a good example of total advance planning put into practice. Yet Colstrip developers recognize a free benefit have close liaison with the various State agencies to actually resolve its great development problems and eventual incorporation.

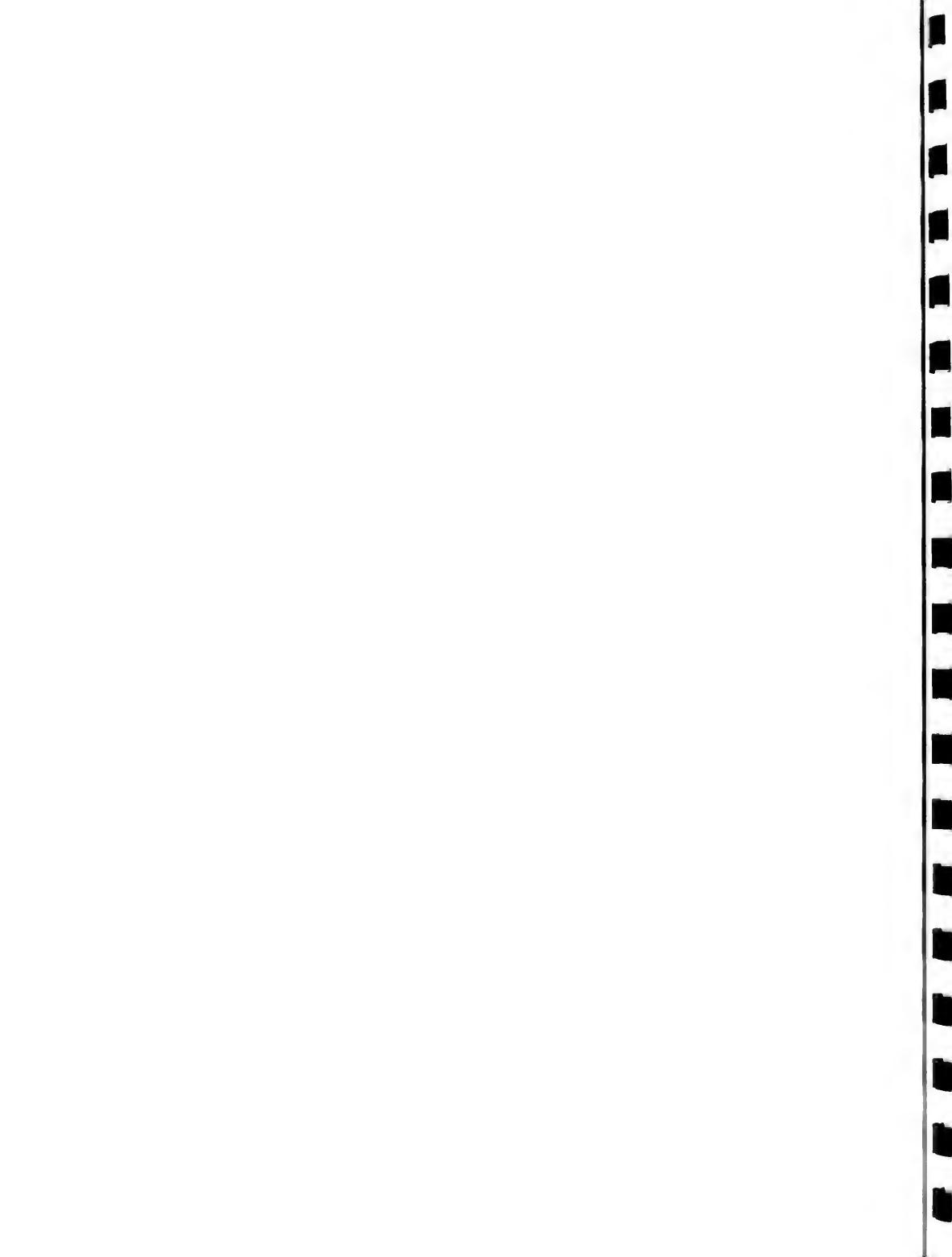
If there is one general thread of consistency with nearly all units of government in the impacted areas, it is clear and bold. The total desire for assistance includes: that unit which really wants to be kept fully informed as to coal development and the ramifications of its



impact in order to facilitate their own local planning; the several communities who desire help to identify the full scope of service needs; and the communities desiring help in their day-to-day operations that could lessen the heavy burden upon them and assist them to be more cost effective in their programs and in finding alternative solutions to meet coal impact.

A general assessment of the latter leads the Consultant to conclude that in most cases resources can be found to help, but the people involved need experienced guidance in their affairs to take full advantage of their resources. The abilities to solve their problems are generally, within existing personnel and with regular field assistance they could find the needed direction to bring the full resources of private industry, State and Federal governments to bear upon the more critical challenges facing an entire section of the State of Montana.

Many State agencies have resources available to help solve the impact problems that are facing these communities. However, these resources are not being used and deployed to aid the communities to the extent needed to meet the actual field demand. The periodic help in identifying financial resources and "how to apply," for grants, etc. is vital and appreciated. The help in practical day-to-day operations, however, which is desperately needed by many of the impacted communities is not available. With a "circuit rider" available for the State agencies to work with and one who is familiar with community administrative and operational needs, considerable reduction of duplicative trips or services can be accomplished. Even more important, the development of co-ordinated programs "in the field" will make these same State agencies



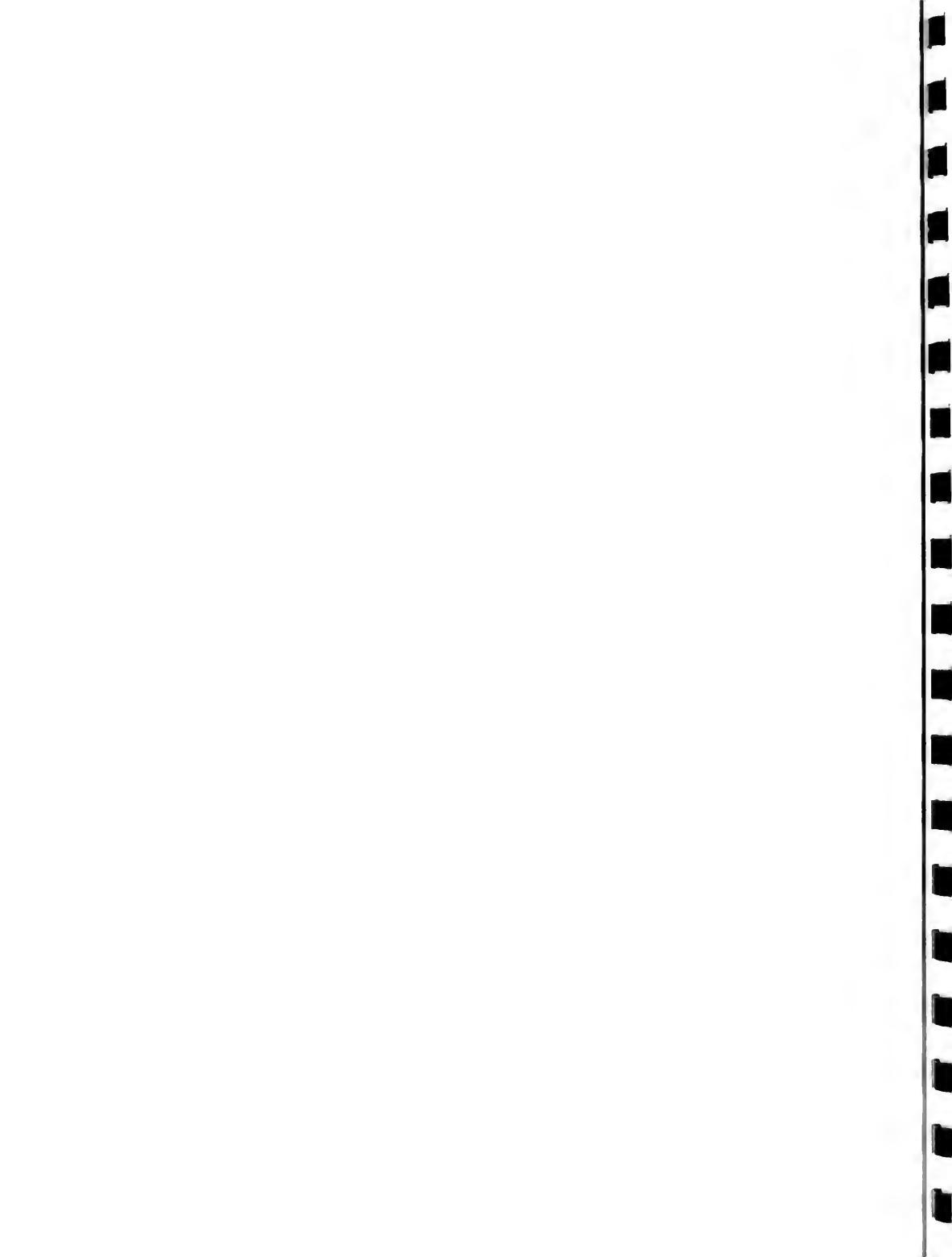
services more cost effective and allow them to function in the areas where they have the expertise and are needed most.

At the same time, having a "circuit rider" who has local operational experience, available for the individual communities would provide:

- 1) regular assistance to the impacted areas for need analysis and development of methods to be more cost effective in their services. This will enable the communities to better address their own problems without total reliance upon Coal Board resources;
- 2) experienced assistance available to address general municipal administrative and operational affairs;
- 3) day-to-day assistance that will establish a basis for meeting their long term impact needs. This type of assistance should include provisions for internal training for local officials to address their own problems;
- 4) assistance in the identification and pursuit of alternative financial resources available to communities that should assure the Coal Board that such processes have been followed locally;
- 5) a communication mechanism to share each other's solutions to similar problems and thus lessen the chance of "re-inventing the wheel"; and
- 6) a guard against "over-building" and/or "over-extending" of facilities.

Many of the above services can be currently found in the intent or job descriptions within several State agencies. However, these jobs are not being performed in the field. A "circuit rider" would provide the Coal Board and other State agencies with the field management expertise necessary to address the operation problems of the impacted areas. Potentially, unmet requirements of the State and the communities could be avoided.

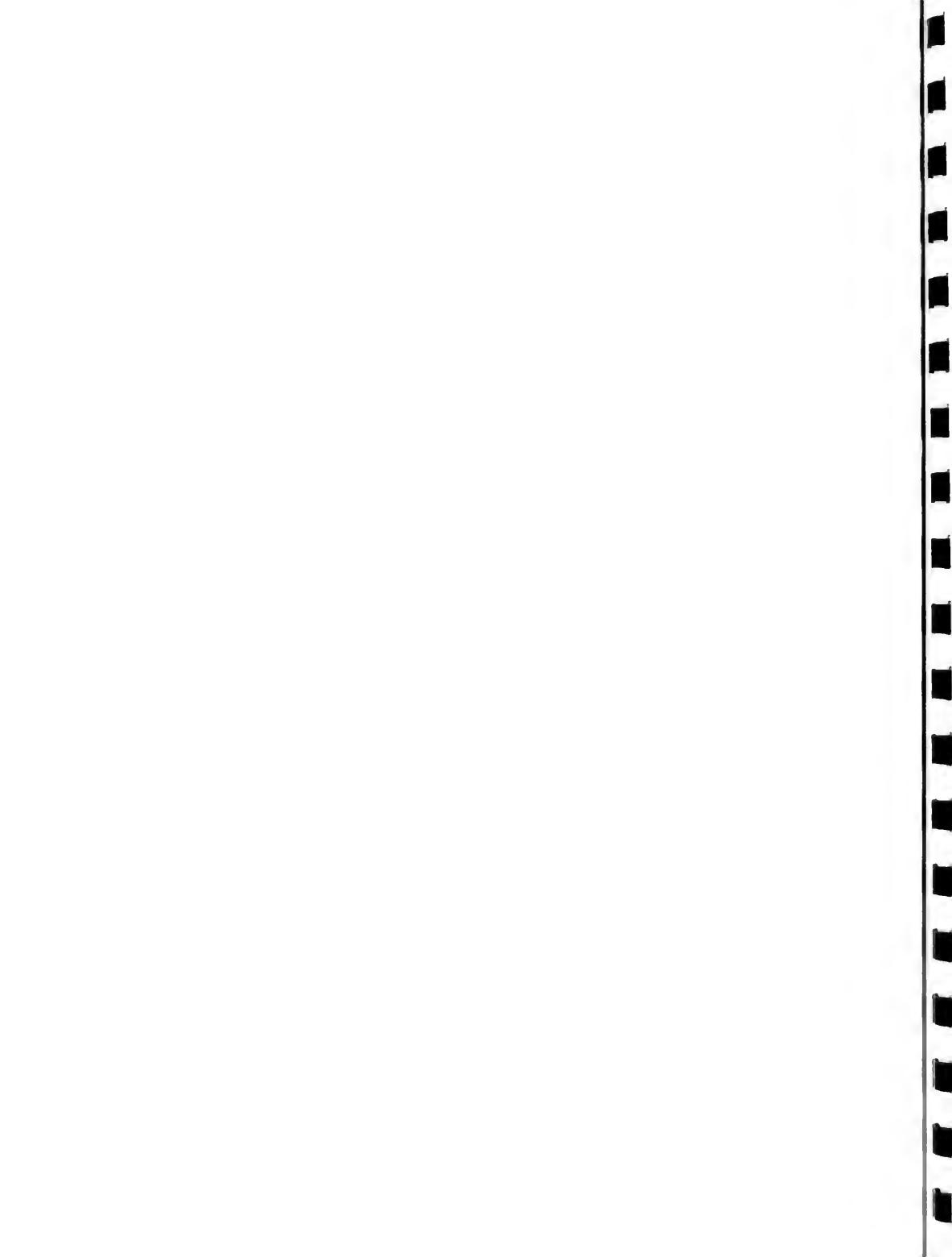
Notwithstanding all of the above, it is important to remember one basic desire and need in the field - that of cooperation with a



Circuit Rider. That basic need is for the Coal Board to continually have their meetings in the impacted areas of the State, and not in Helena. There is no substitute for this. The mechanism be established that would have a greater impact and, in my opinion, that the actual "hands-on" field experience for members of the Coal Board. I would suggest that at least one half day be set aside, more if possible, to tour the local areas. This could include visiting two or three jurisdictions each meeting date prior to regular Board meetings. These visitations have helped the Coal Board in the past and in each instance the community has felt such a visit has been beneficial.

There are several ground rules that should be established if the Coal Board desires to make this investment into the future indefinite usefulness of the impacted communities of this State:

1. The Circuit Rider should not be expected to be a "spokesman" for the Coal Board nor for the community, but should be considered a professional resource provided by the Coal Board for the community to draw upon;
2. The Circuit Rider should not be expected to be a grants-man, planner or engineer for the communities, but aid in establishing specifications and criteria for the retention for each when needed;
3. The Circuit Rider should be expected to be available when unforeseen problems arise in the life of the community to the applicable resource for assistance;
4. The Circuit Rider should be expected to attend and follow-up on visits to aid the communities impacted by coal development;
5. The Circuit Rider should be expected to implement the Coal Board's future legislative recommendations if deemed appropriate;
6. The Circuit Rider should be retained for an indefinite time to address the coal development issues.

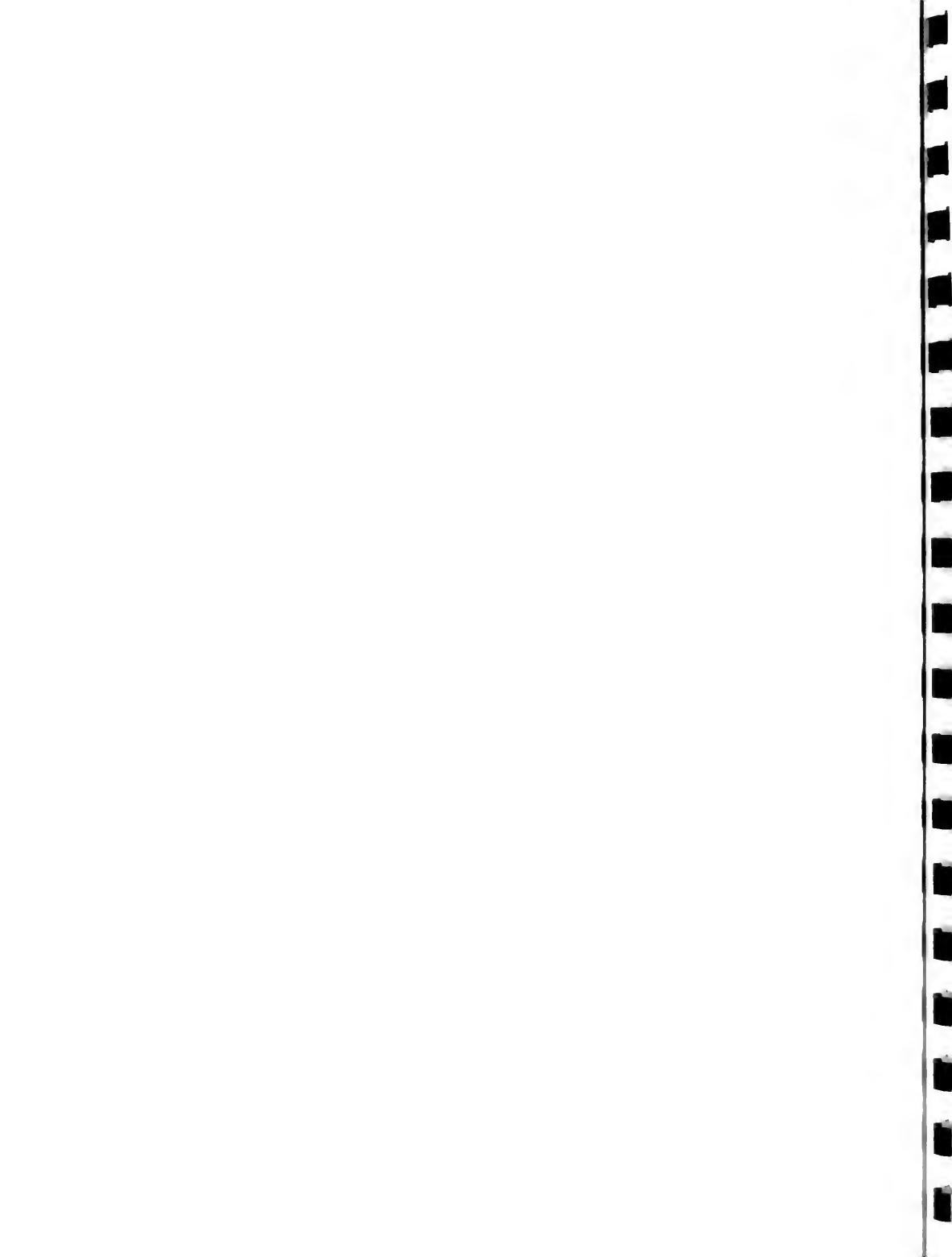


Coal Board to be accomplished through the community assistance process. This, in turn, should establish a basis for the future relationship among communities in coal impacted areas of Montana. How the problems are collectively addressed here will set the pattern for other programs of the State.

The following pages of this Community Assessment give a more complete understanding of the desires, needs and current abilities of the communities to cope with coal impact. In summary, the overall assessment includes:

- 1) The communities in the coal impacted area DESIRE "in-field" assistance from the State;
- 2) The communities NEED "in-field" assistance to address the economic challenges resulting from coal development and its impact on day-to-day operations;
- 3) The several State agencies having community assistance resources available to them are not providing this assistance in the field in adequate amounts to address the real and critical impact problems;
- 4) The Coal Board and other State agencies will benefit from a Circuit Rider familiar with all investigative and operational techniques existing in the coal impact areas of Montana;
- 5) The establishment of a Circuit Rider would be a sound investment of Coal Board resources that will return great dividends to the communities in one efficient operations and to the Coal Board in as much that the communities would cope with coal impact;
- 6) The extent of in-field assistance to the impacted government in filling resource needs to the best advantage at the earliest possible time. For those units where no in-field assistance is available, it is recommended to be started by the Coal Board at this time, if the community is willing to do so, and at least once six months to keep the Coal Board up to date in its evaluation of the community's needs.

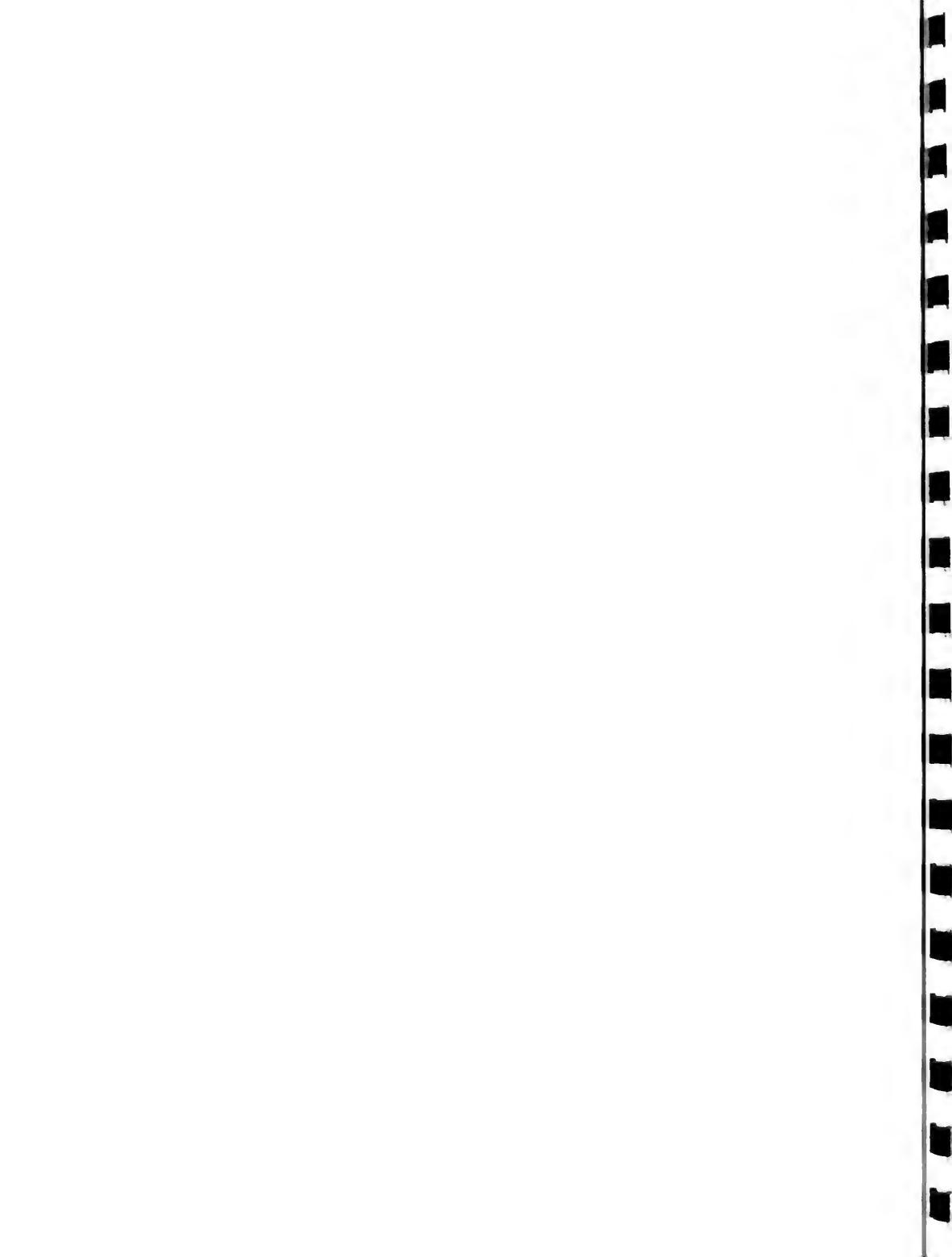
The declared aim of the community assessment is to assist the Affairs, Health and Environment Committee, the Coal Board and the Coal



had been to provide assistance to local governments in Montana. However, several smaller outlying communities have expressed their concern over what they feel is inadequate field assistance from state agencies. It is the opinion that there is so much validity to their concern. It is also recognized, however, that not all the local units need assistance from the Department of Highways, or the Department of Health, or the Department of Community Affairs. What they need is assistance from someone in the state who has had local government administrative and operational experience.

Therefore, I recommend that the Coal Board enter into a "Partnership" with the State of professional administrative assistance to the 115 local communities in this report and in the amount of one-eighth. The initial funding of this program be from Coal Board resources for the first eighteen (18) months, January, 1980 through June 30, 1981. During the last six months of the initial funded period, the individual units or government receiving assistance should evaluate the program and, with the Coal Board, determine future funding sources. This will enable the unit or government to determine if within their capabilities, they have the ability to carry a part of the future funding. If local governments and coal governments run from July 1 to June 30, additional funding shall carry, be adopted until late August.

Additionally, during this initial period, the Legislative and the Legislative Oversight Committee will have the opportunity to meet with the units and inspect the eight Federally assisted programs in both areas, in concert with the officials of the state, to determine what future legislative action (or inaction) is necessary to maintain the effectiveness of the programs.



Montana. Further, the Department of Community Affairs will have the opportunity to evaluate the merits of a full community assistance program that could be utilized in other areas of Montana where local resources are scarce.

INDIVIDUAL
COUNTY AND COMMUNITY
ASSESSMENT



y, Montana

KNOWN STRIPPING OPERATIONS

SURFACE MINE

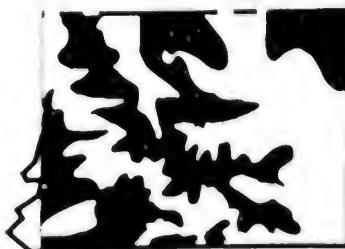
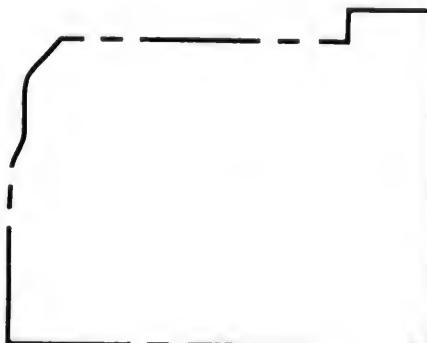
UNDERGROUND MINE

INDIAN RESERVATION

1 WESTMIRE AND REEDIE
SPRING CREEK MINE

2 EPPERS MINE

3 SPRING CREEK MINE

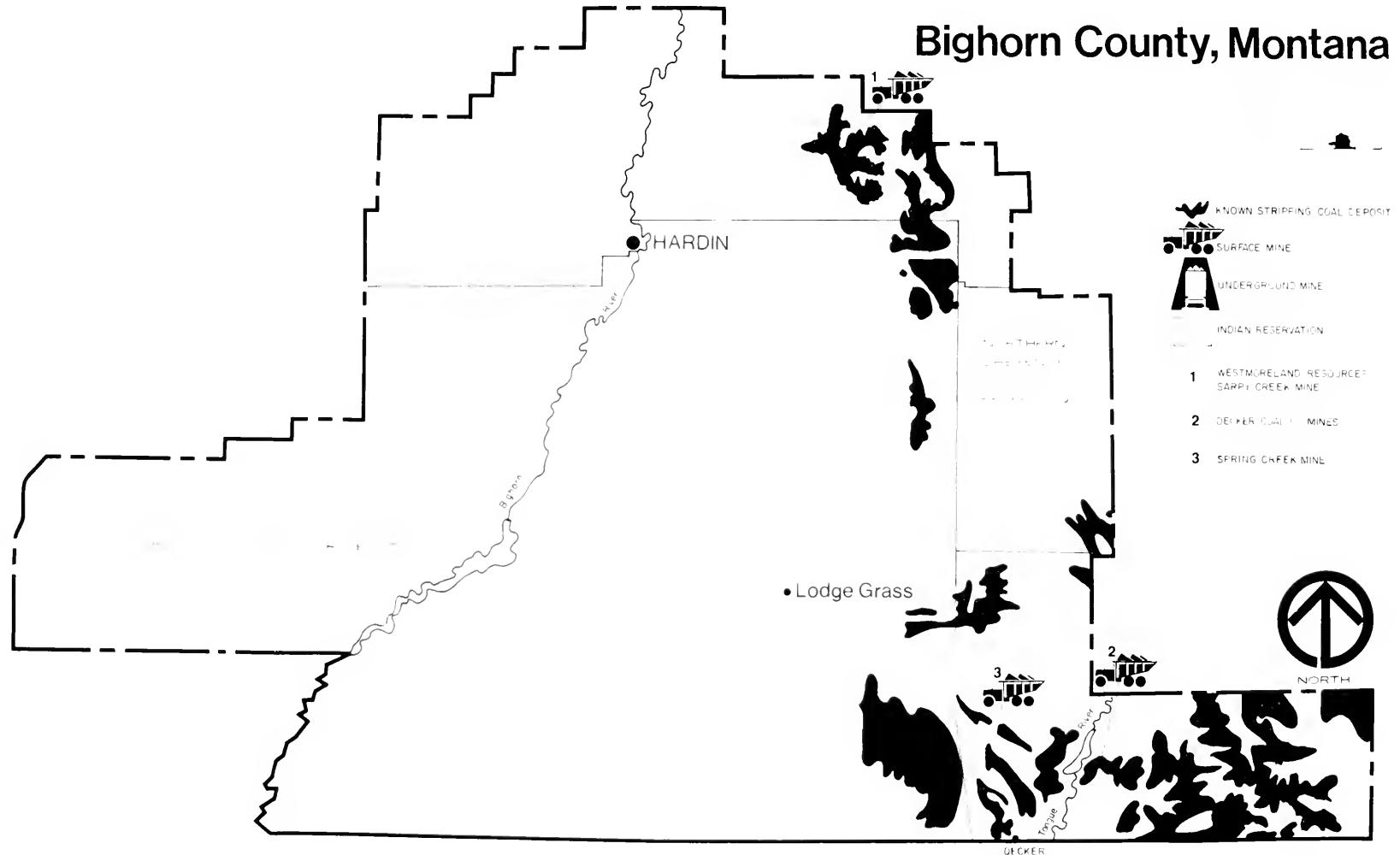


B I G H O R N C O U N T Y

Big Horn County has a very diverse and difficult economy to wrestle with. Some impact has already been noted, notably in the southern end of the County, further development of the economy will require considerable regular and frequent assistance and training. In addition to the "buff-reservation" development, a significant impact on the Crow Indian Reservation is very likely to have an important effect. A continuing close liaison with the Crow Council and tribal government is desirable, however, tribal county, tribal and tribal government, including arterial road systems, dams, water, power, transportation, schools, utility extension and other related projects.

Close coordination has been evident in the efforts of the three involved, Hardin, Custer and Big Horn counties, to develop the Big Horn County Comprehensive Plan. In the future, the three counties will provide a model for the rest of the state. The three counties will units of government in Big Horn County in the future, and will work closely together in the development of the county. The impact in the southern portion of the county will be most directly felt due to the large timber reserves and the heavy development of the Custer Creek area. The county will be faced with a great deal of pressure to develop the area.

Bighorn County, Montana



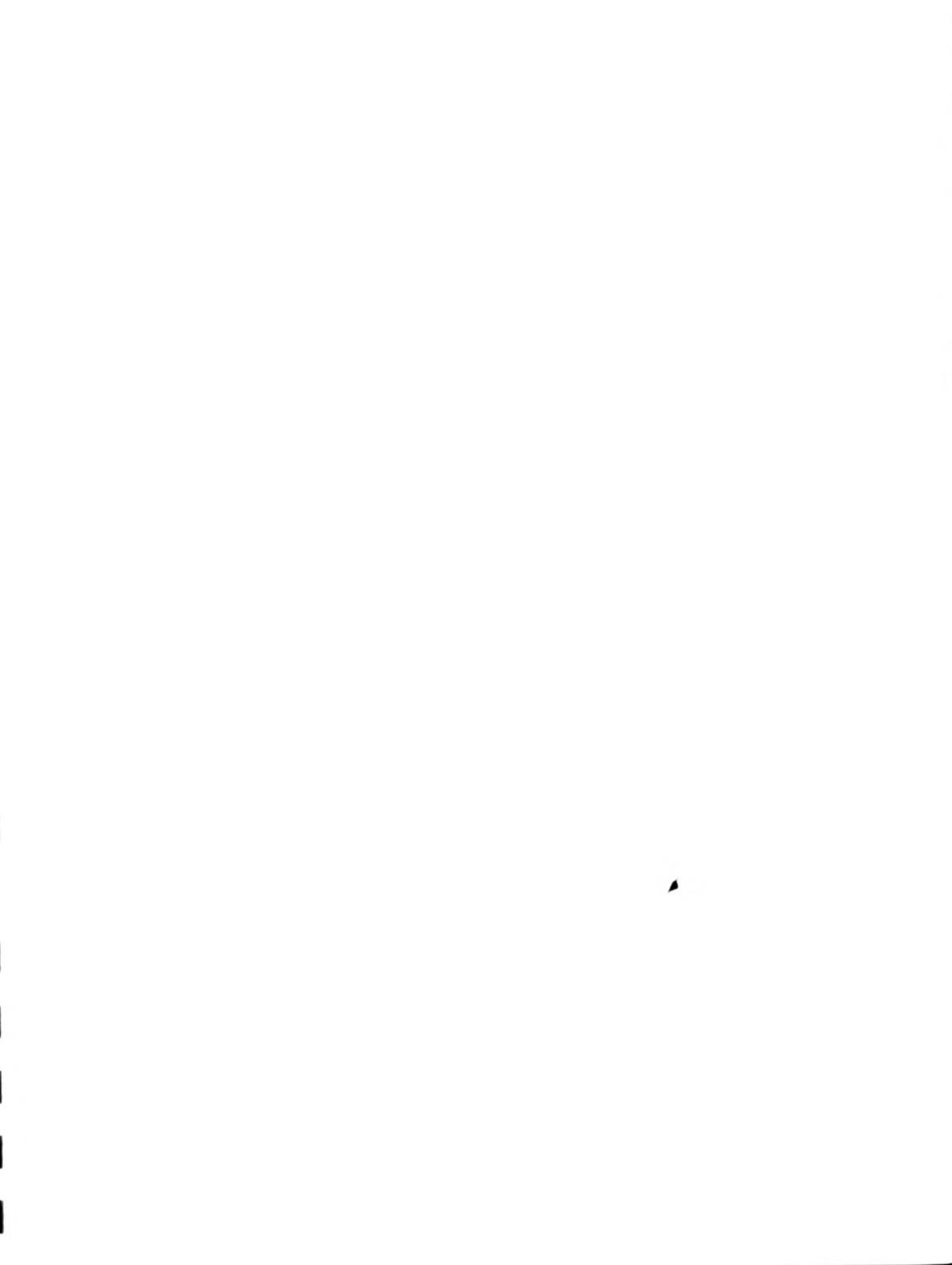
B I G H O R N C O U N T Y

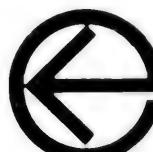
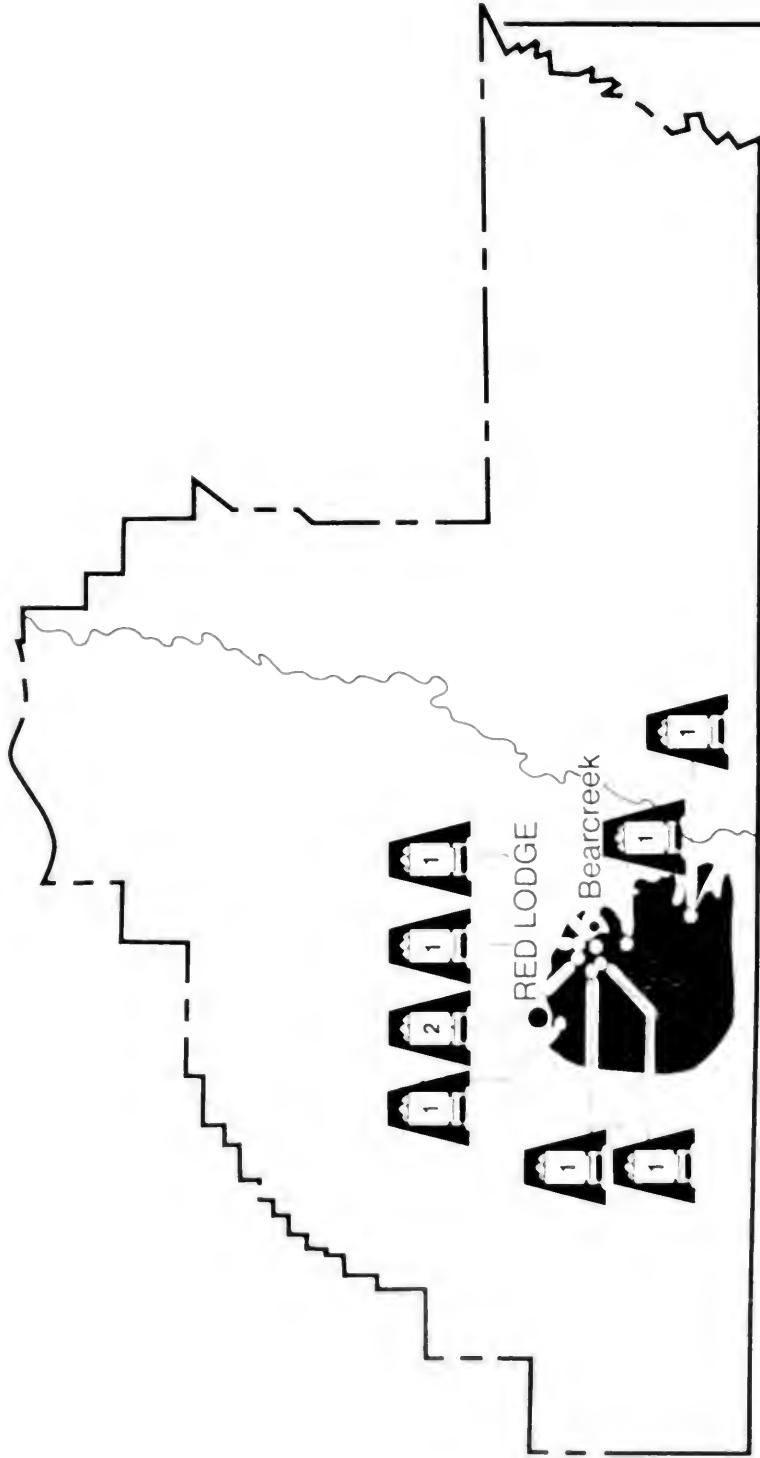
Big Horn County has a very diverse and difficult environment to wrestle with. Some impact has already been made on the southern end of the County, further development will bring considerable regular and frequent assistance will be received. In addition to the Buff-Reservation mining development, coal mining coal on the Crow Indian Reservation are, and will be, in charge of the government. A continuing close liaison with the Montana and Big Horn governments is desirable, however, total county problems must be considered, including arterial road systems, annexations, housing, recreation, schools, utility, extension and other social facilities.

Close coordination has been evident in the setting up of the county involving Hardin, Lodge Grass, and Ranchester. The Big Horn County Comprehensive Plan is in the process of being developed and will provide a good basis for setting the future of the county. That all units of government in Big Horn County, in the future, should be working closely in a true liaison, is a must. Major impact will be the impact in the southern portion of the county, especially as directed to the Ranchester area. The county government, the county level government, the State of Montana, and the county planning commission must be in close liaison.

Many of the Ledge Grass streets are identified through liaison with Bill Herr County Planning and in the next three years, through coordination with Hardin and the Bill Herr County Commissioners. The lack of a tax base to meet daily operating costs has created a very real crisis situation for the community. Basic services are being left, in some cases, by others through default and no longer effective assistance is needed.

Interestingly, many Ledge Grass residents went to work in the mines and left either jobs which created a need for replacement or, however, it is unknown who and where the replacement came from. Perhaps there were other residents but it is unknown. A close relationship with fate, friend or foe, is defined by the community, but the extent and nature of such a relationship is unknown. Perhaps indicated in the findings is a call for the ever-diminishing problems facing the community in the long run to reduce future apparent dependence upon others, including the local Board.





Carbon County,
Montana

1 CLOSED MNS (1979)

2 BEARDOOTH CDA, CO

C A R B O N C O U N T Y

Carbon County has had a long history of coal development. Not surprisingly, however, is the lack of current mining information. Notwithstanding, there is current exploration activity in some formerly abandoned mines near Bear Creek.

Though many problems of community development are surfacing in Red Lodge, general coal-related impacts are not evident. Considerable uncertainty surrounds the exploration activity, and close scrutiny of these developments is vital.

B E A R C R E E K

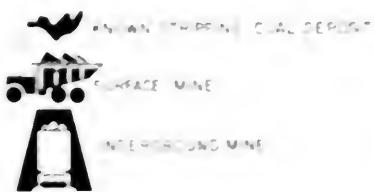
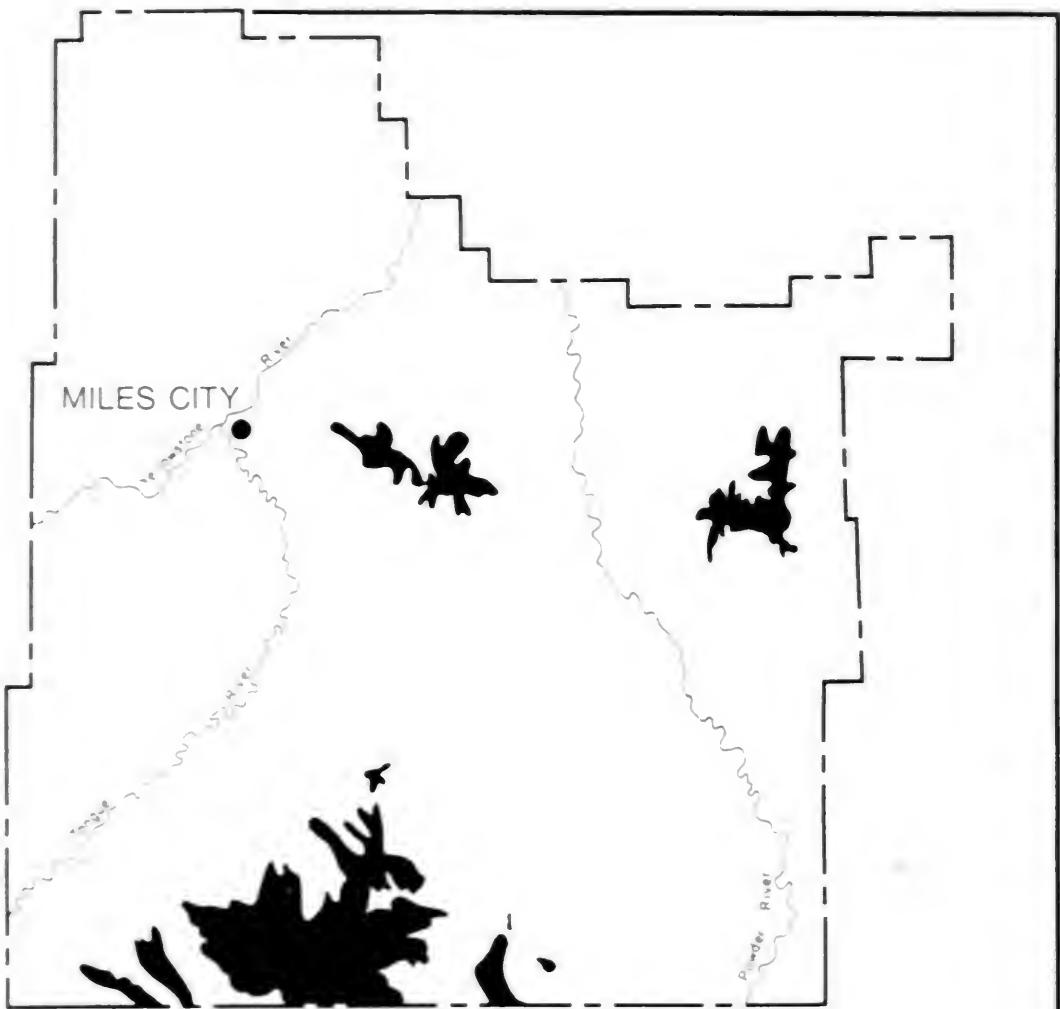
The Town of Bear Creek is not currently being impacted by coal development. Particular concern is expressed by local officials as to the uncertainties of mine development in light of the limited existing population. A total of twenty new people added to Bear Creek, for example, is a 30% effect impact. Close, continued liaison with the Coal Board is desired. A reasonable advance notice of development can be addressed in planning. No assistance is anticipated at this time, but unexpected mine development would require considerable help.

RED LODGE

The City of Red Lodge is not now being impacted by coal development. The uncertainties of mine development are a real concern to city officials. If development does in fact occur, basic water service are of key concern. Currently, the water system is incapable of meeting the existing needs adequately and with developing commercial and residential interests may well be overtaxed.

A desire on the part of city officials to maintain a close working relationship with the Coal Board has been expressed, particularly if the Coal Board can make any meaningful contact with the coal companies involved to obtain reliable information as to an, future development.





**Custer County,
Montana**

CUSTOMER COMMENT

The coal plant in Custer County from 1988 through 1991 while City is more or less in tact but the County Board of Commissioners to develop the local units of government and the county will occur. These governmental units, including the County, have had a difficult time verifying impact due to population. Population fluctuation increases and decreases parallel county units 1 and 2. Population fluctuation remarkably close. Likewise, county line development projects followed a similar trend.

Increased activity at Mill's Community Center (1988-1990-1991) and 2 construction and the initial interest in working with the preparation for District 3 and 4 construction further indicate coal related impact.

The '90s will impact and future mining of coal reserves in the southern part of Custer County and the coal industry will continue with slow and rather startling impact on the local economy. Infrastructure will continue to be developed and improved and the coal industry will continue to be developed and improved and the advancement of coal mining projects will continue.

MILES CITY

Miles City is becoming a substantial urban center in the north-eastern fringes of the Powder River Basin. Some impact is evident in the booming economy and demand for housing in the area. Local officials are concerned about this development and desire to meet the impacts in advance and with knowledge. The uncertainties with the Western Energy Company Dominy project and future mining of coal reserves to the south have created a reluctance to orderly movement of private development for fear of "boom-bust" cycles.

The school system has been working hard to provide a hedge to adverse impacts and the city is moving ahead with utility extensions and road improvements. Additionally, the City and County government have cooperated well in the establishment of priority needs. The City and County Comprehensive Plan is currently (1979) in the process of update approval. This updated plan should provide a sound basis for determining future capital, housing and service needs.

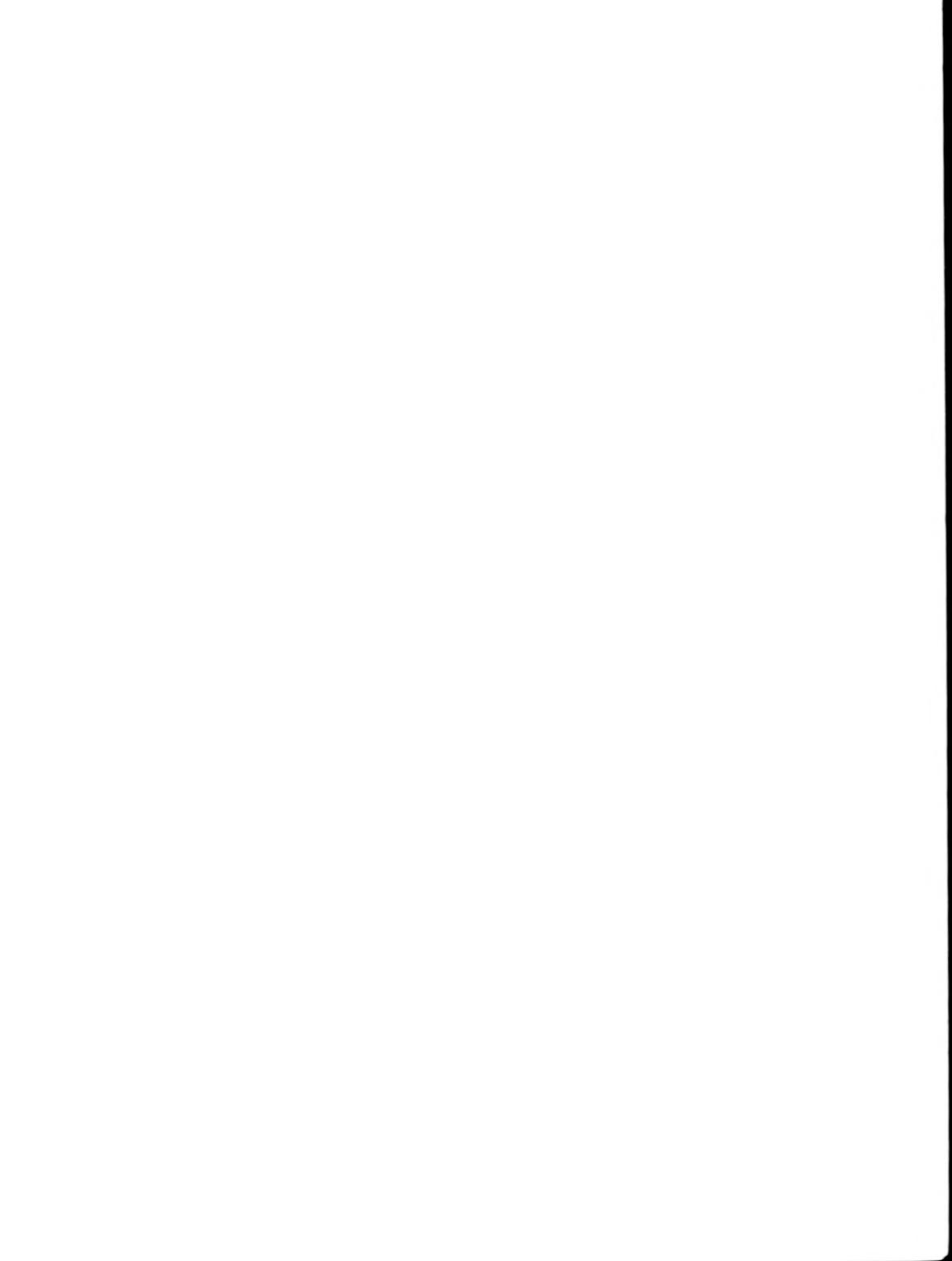
MILES COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Miles Community College may very well be the sleeping resource to bring many of the community service needs into proper focus.

With current heavy requests for extension courses that cannot be fulfilled due to budget limitations, Miles Community College sits on a gold mine of expertise needed in the field.

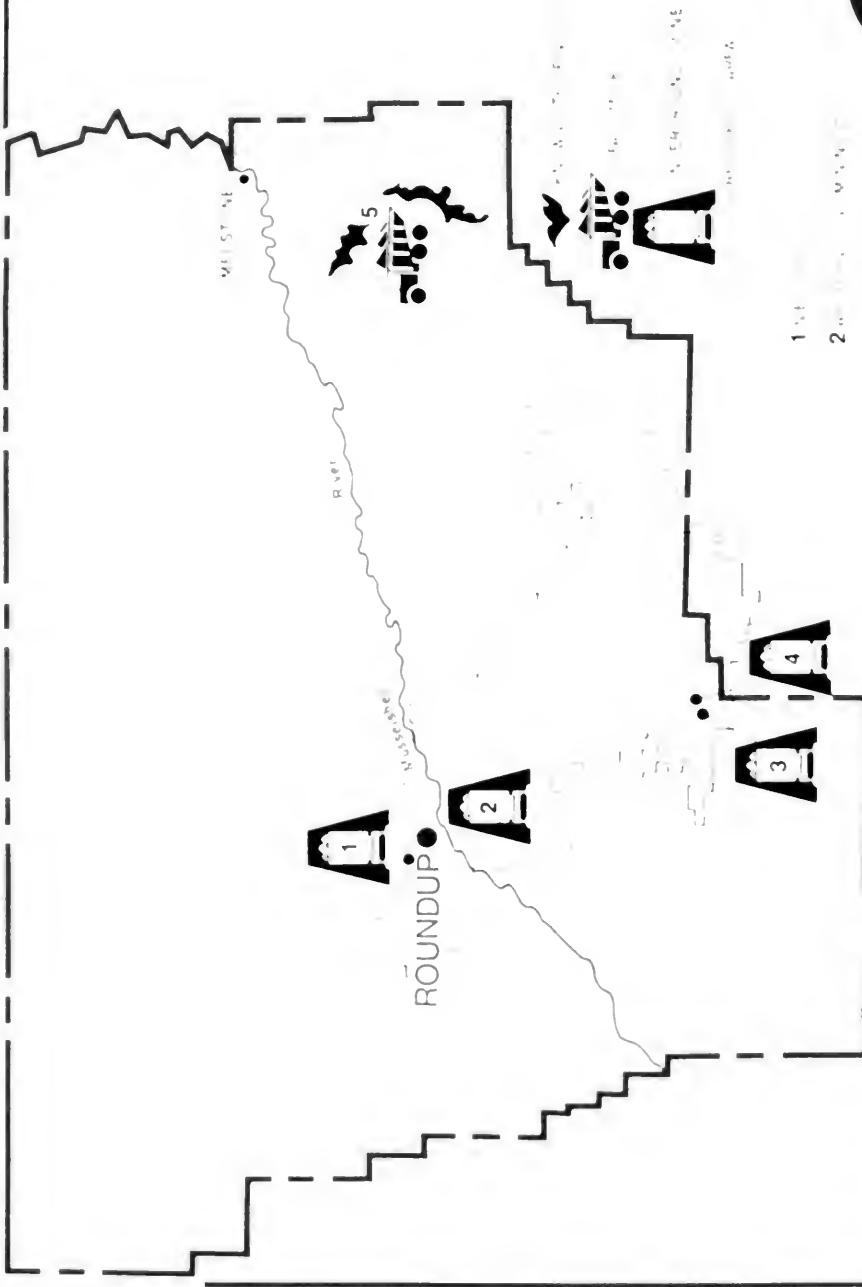
Miles Community College is geographically well situated and has the facilities to provide training on campus and the ability to extend these programs into the impact areas as needed. As communities identify their needs for training and skill development for industry and government, Miles Community College is a resource that can be drawn upon.

Herein lies another type of community assistance, the training Circuit Rider.





Musselshell County, Montana



MUSSELSHELL COUNTY

Musselshell County had a rich heritage of coal mining. Several currently closed mines and two additional operating mines in the Bull Mountain Field have provided past impacts in the area from Melton to Roundup. At the present time, Louisville Land and Exploration Company is exploring the possibility of renewed mining activity. As developments occur in the Bull Mountain Field, the Coal Board should monitor the activities very closely.

Though there are shortages in housing and other amenities, the county population is at a current level below 1940 figures. However, the population increase from 1970 to 1977 reflect the second highest net change in all of the coal impact areas, 23.9%, second only to Rosebud County.

Local officials have expressed clearly they do not want happening to them what has happened to Forsyth as to a late start in meeting the impact from coal development. The community schools, city of Roundup, County, planners and citizens want to be prepared in advance to meet future impacts.

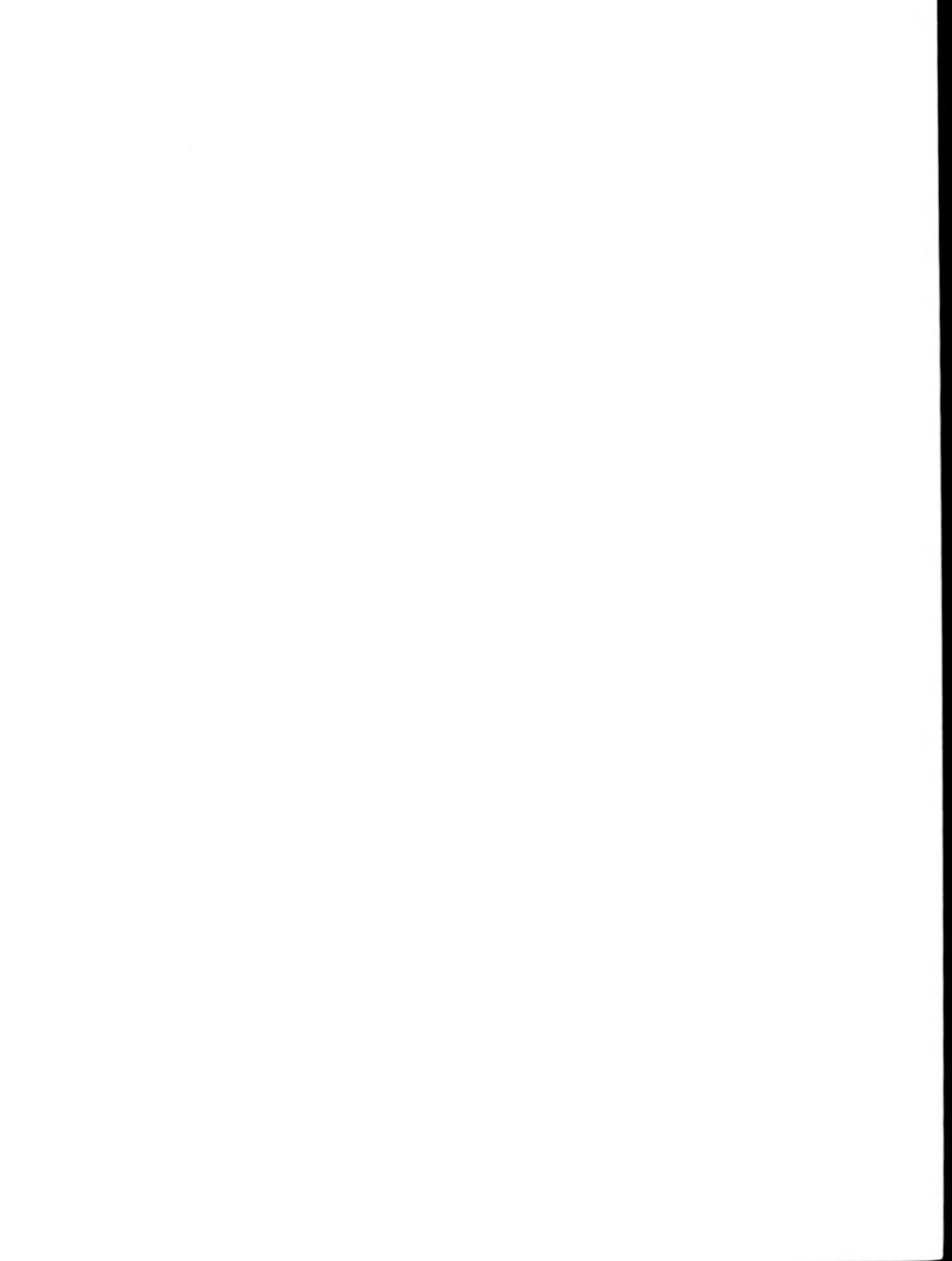
R O U N D U P

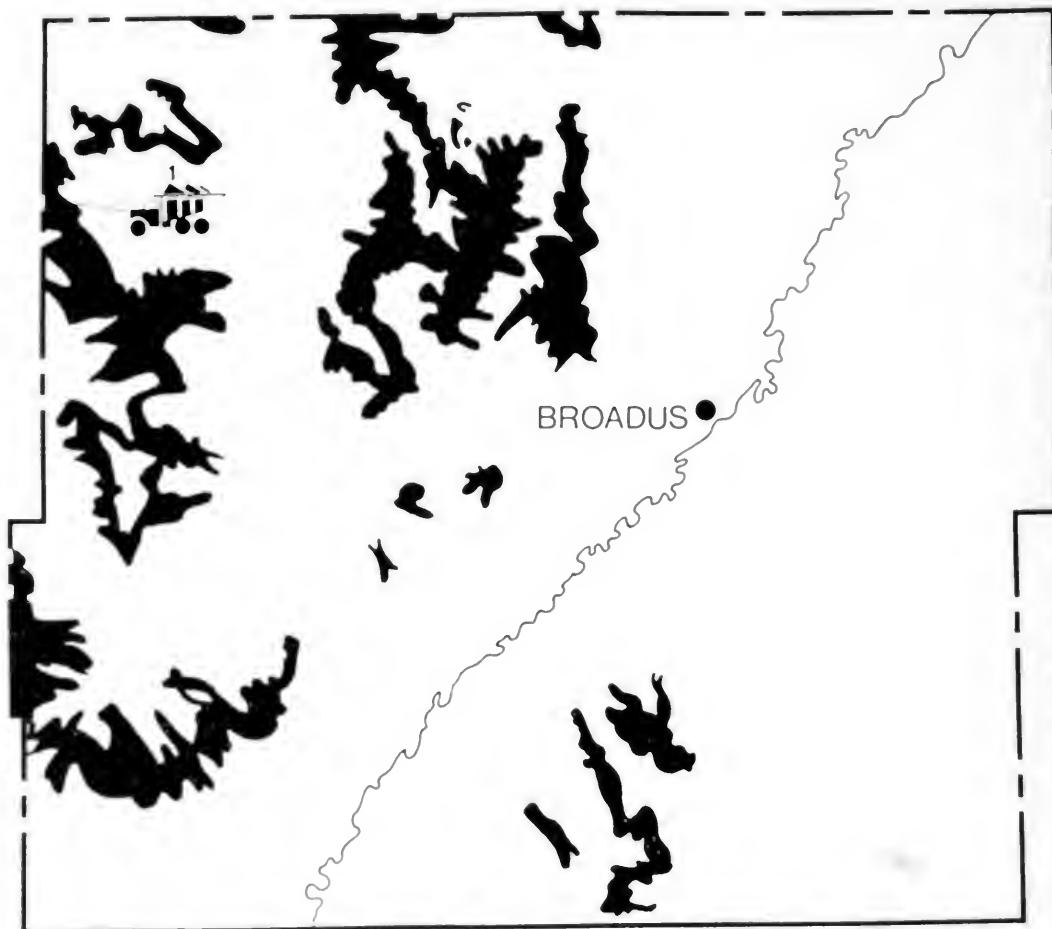
Roundup and vicinity are facing many unknowns in the areas of housing, commercial development, utility and school needs. Existing pressures in meeting current municipal service and utility extensions are straining local resources. With all of the unknowns and challenges before them, the community basically says - "Let us know what is happening - how it is going to affect me and my family - then we can deal with it (the future)."

If a "Circuit Rider" is created, the people in Roundup see its role:

- a) to advise the community;
- b) make such suggestions as "how to";
- c) assist in preparing the community for the future through Ordinance and Code suggestions;
- d) share with the community the experiences of others in similar circumstances;
- e) to advise the Coal Board as to on-site knowledge of local problems and situations.

It should be noted that Roundup officials have appreciated the assistance that the several state agencies have provided but feel that this "in field" assistance is something the Coal Board, Department of Community Affairs, or whatever, should provide on a more regular basis.





AN INDIAN TRADING COMPANY
SURFACE MINE

INTERIOR MINE

1 COAL STRIP MINE

**Powder River County,
Montana**

P O W D E R R I V E R C O U N T Y

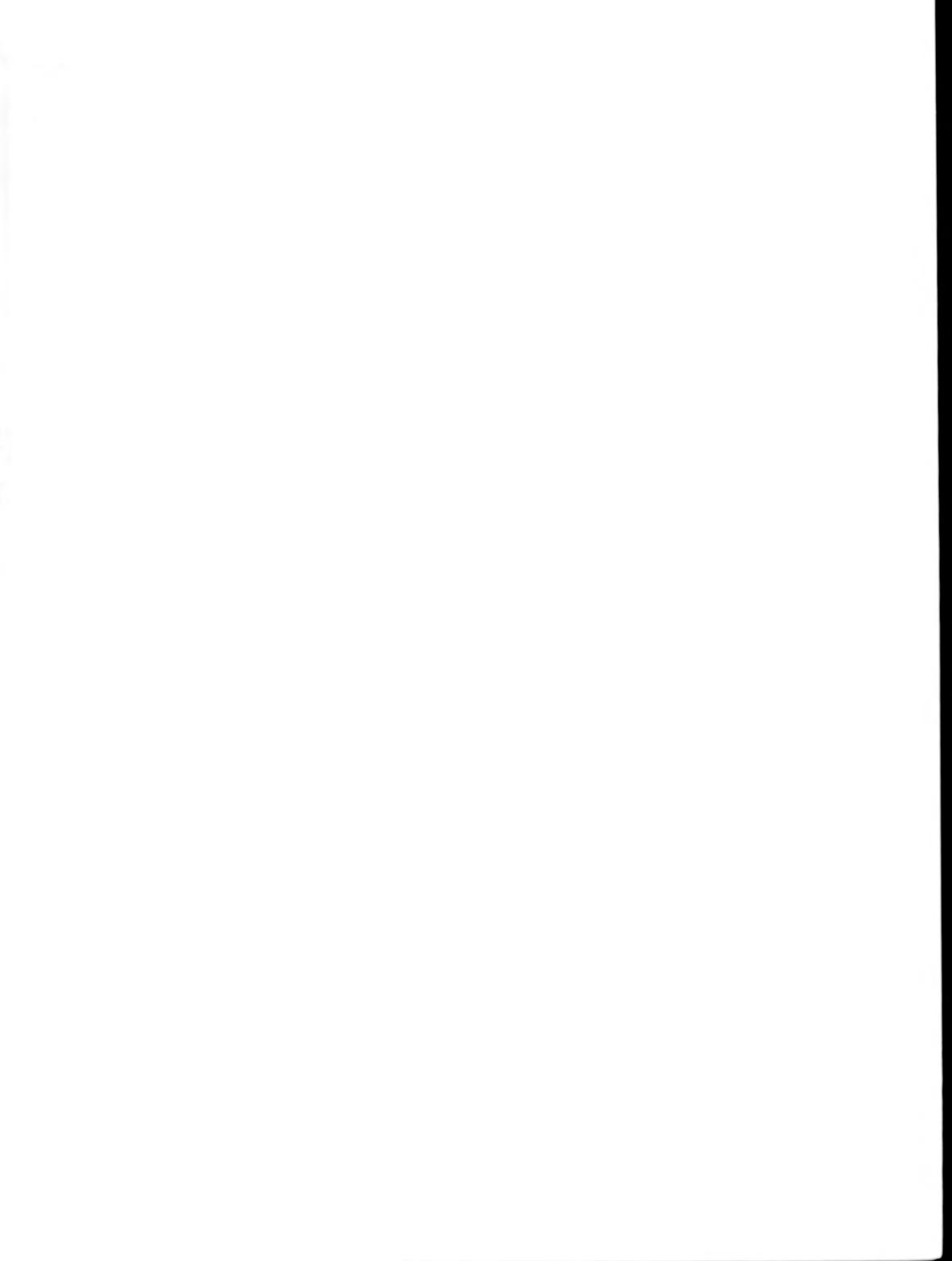
Powder River Count. officials see in a good position to meet their current needs. Road maintenance and upgrade needs in ~~the~~ areas of the county as an on-going program. The count, ~~would~~ be very desirous of more definitive information regarding the development to enable the county to allocate their priorities and resources to meet developer's timetables.

Good comprehensive planning is being accomplished, however, some very basic assumptions are having to be used pertaining to the future growth and impact requirements. Consequently, to place reliance upon the timetables developed is difficult and has created some apprehension by local officials to address the impact needs in a timely manner from their own resources.

B R O A D U S

Broadus will be a focal point of impact when the Powder River reserves are mined. In addition, heavy impact is expected locally when additional mines in southern Rosebud County are opened. A desire for close coordination with the Coal Board, Department of Community Affairs and other State agencies is evident.

A concern for lack of tax base to accomplish the task of meeting anticipated needs is foremost in Broadus officials' minds. Thus, a desire for regular and "continuing" assistance in facing the future is expressed. Broadus is interested in good programming to the extent of accepting the facts of the "boom-bust" cycle and preparing for each of its impacts.



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KNOWN STRIP COAL DEPOSIT

SURFACE MINE

UNDERGROUND MINE

12 SCHOOL DISTRICT

NORTHERN CHEYENNE
INDIAN RESERVATION

1 WESTERN ENERGY CO.
CULSTRIP MINES

2 PEARL COAL CO.
B.G. #1 MINE

COLSTRIP / 4 ELECTRIC
ENERGY CO. PLANTS

Yellowstone

River

Rosebud

FORSYTH

Colstrip

LAME DEER

19

ASHLAND

BIRCH

Rosebud County,
Montana



ROSEBUD COUNTY

Rosebud County has probably received the most direct impact from general coal development in the past ten years. With the development of Colstrip 1 and 2 and the pending construction of Units 3 and 4, it is expected the greatest coal impacts of the next five years will also be located within Rosebud County. Additionally, the proposed Nance Mine between Birney and Ashland will have significant further impact. The County Commissioners are very concerned about impact in the Birney area.

All in the county are appreciative of the assistance given by the Coal Board and in general feel comfortable in meeting the future impacts as they develop. The greater concerns of the County officials are in the area of road development and helping the smaller communities. These small communities will receive the brunt of coal impact and through co-operative efforts some of the adverse impact may be lessened. Through an update of the County Comprehensive Plan, the area will qualify for additional assistance through several Federal impact funding sources.

One of the more visible of the "unseen" problems is in the area of solid waste, including junk vehicles. Though a basic program has been instituted, operational costs of disposal and the logistics of collection presents a real challenge.

A S H L A N D

Ashland is an unincorporated town with a Water and Sewer Board as the only "local" entity involved with local development. A local private Mission is limited in what it can provide for the community and the whole area is limited in its available resources to meet community needs. A water and sewer system was built with initial funding from sources other than the Coal Board, however, some repair work was needed due to flood caused damage and the Coal Board assisted. Due to lack of adequate numbers of hook-ups, further financial assistance was rendered to make payments on the original loan.

Several factors are evident here. First the system, though needed, was built too soon to a size that is not affordable; second, adequate construction inspection was lacking, allowing, according to the district, some lines to be laid directly on rock and not properly bedded in gravel which may well lead to extensive repair or corrective work in the future; and thirdly, a definite need to obtain a closer liaison with other State agencies to assist in the manner in which hook-ups occur, whether or not tie-ins can be required and if there is financial assistance available for the elderly.

The Water and Sewer Board has a desire to help the community but is terribly frustrated because of the lack of current community involvement. They desire considerable help but do not know where to start and more particularly, what to expect and when. This type of concern was also expressed by a number of Ashland area citizens talked to and seemed to be a real focal point where the Coal Board could assist.

COLSTRIP

Colstrip, currently an unincorporated company owned townsite, is laboring with many facets of development. Incorporation and the development of an adequate tax base, Units 3 and 4 development, housing, water, sewer, roads, medical, schools, and recreation are all current, critical and bothersome projects. A real sincere desire for close, regular, involvement with the Coal Board and other State agencies is evident as the community addresses these problems.

Several immediate practical problems exist: Can the Highway Department do something soon regarding the dangerous, heavily traveled State Secondary Highway No. 315 - from Colstrip to Interstate 94 - before peak Units 3 and 4 construction is reached in 1981? Can a doctor be found? Where are school teachers to live? How to address the housing needs for the multitude of State and Federal government workers showing up in town? If Colstrip is to be incorporated, will there be adequate projected tax base to pay for the operational needs of a city?

Continuing regular liaison is desired now with the Coal Board in addressing the immediate expansion programs. It is sincerely "felt" that if the bulk of the impact problems can be addressed here at Colstrip, many adverse impacts upon other communities may well be lessened or alleviated.

F O R S Y T H

Forsyth has gone through one phase of impact development and feels it has learned many valuable lessons and is willing to share some of these lessons with others. Officials are unsure that any regular assistance from the Coal Board would be beneficial in light of this past experience, however, regular information flow would help. This latter is particularly true in obtaining information from the railroads because of the added impact of railroad crews coming into the area.

Great appreciation is felt for past Coal Board assistance and as future impacts become identified, they will probably again file applications for consideration. Forsyth is beginning to identify other areas of needs, such as recreation, that must be met from some resource. Currently they are unsure how these will be funded. Another point has been made, nearly all of the available land within the current city limits has been filled, leaving future growth considerations outside the existing municipal boundaries.

The City of Forsyth would like the Coal Board to better understand the equipment and other capital needs and priorities to enable the Coal Board to be more responsive to the total community impact.

F O R S Y T H S C H O O L S

The school district has been assisted greatly to meet a very heavy student impact and feel their educational needs have been temporarily met with current development and pending applications. However, community social needs are becoming more and more apparent and should begin to be addressed in coordination with the City, County and School District. This has led some in the community to place great emphasis upon incorporating community needs within school facility designs.

LAME DEER SCHOOLS

Lame Deer Public Schools occupy the unique role in providing principle education needs to the Cheyenne Indian Reservation. The District is being strained with 1979 class enrollment outstripping the facilities available.

The Coal Board provided a grant to Lame Deer School District for the development of a Comprehensive Plan to assist the District in their pursuit of Federal funding for school facilities development.

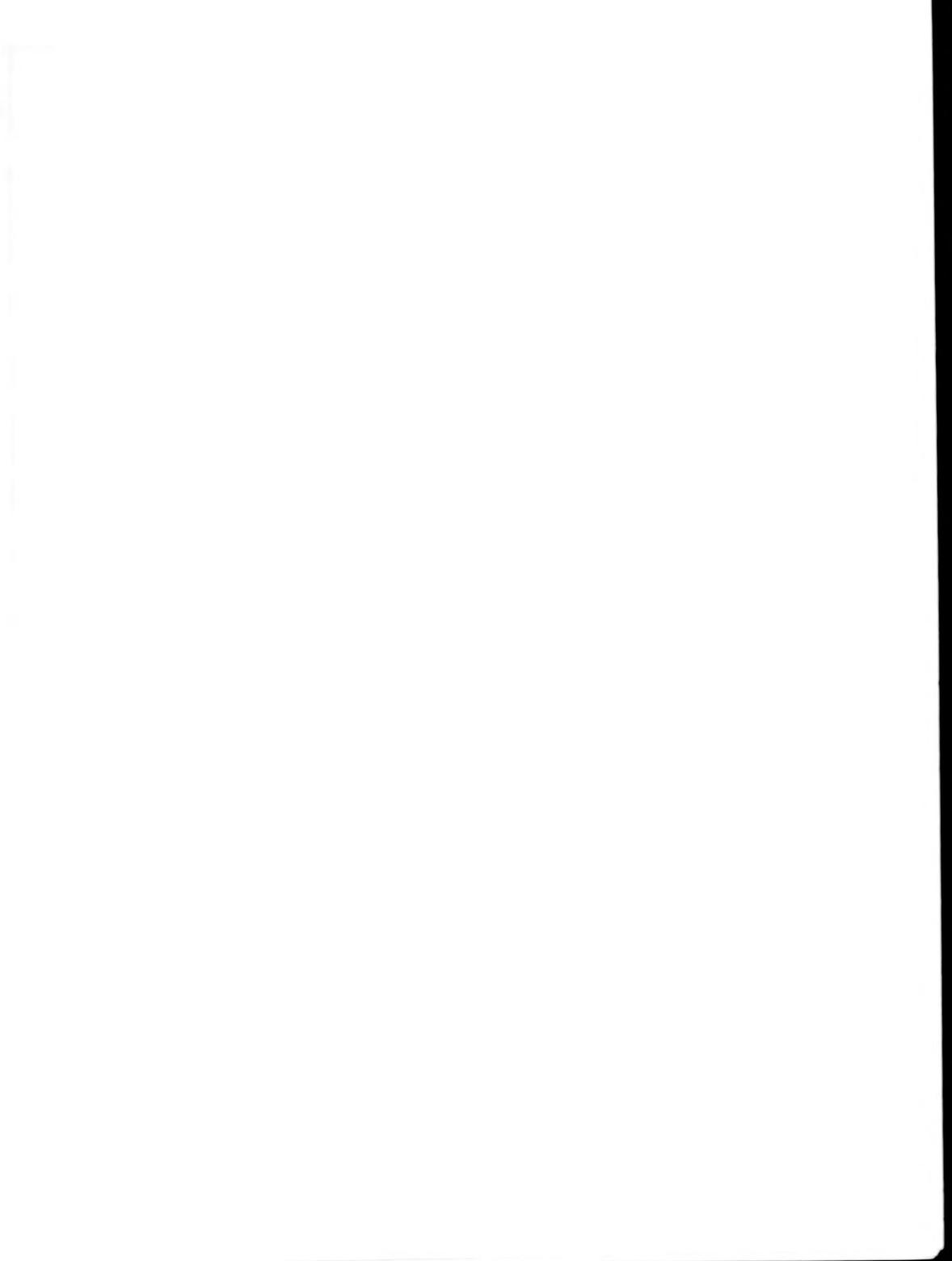
As Colstrip 1 and 2 have developed and with the pending construction of Units 3 and 4, Lame Deer School District has an identified 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ direct impact upon their system. It is not difficult to project the impending challenge to the school as the new construction begins at Colstrip.

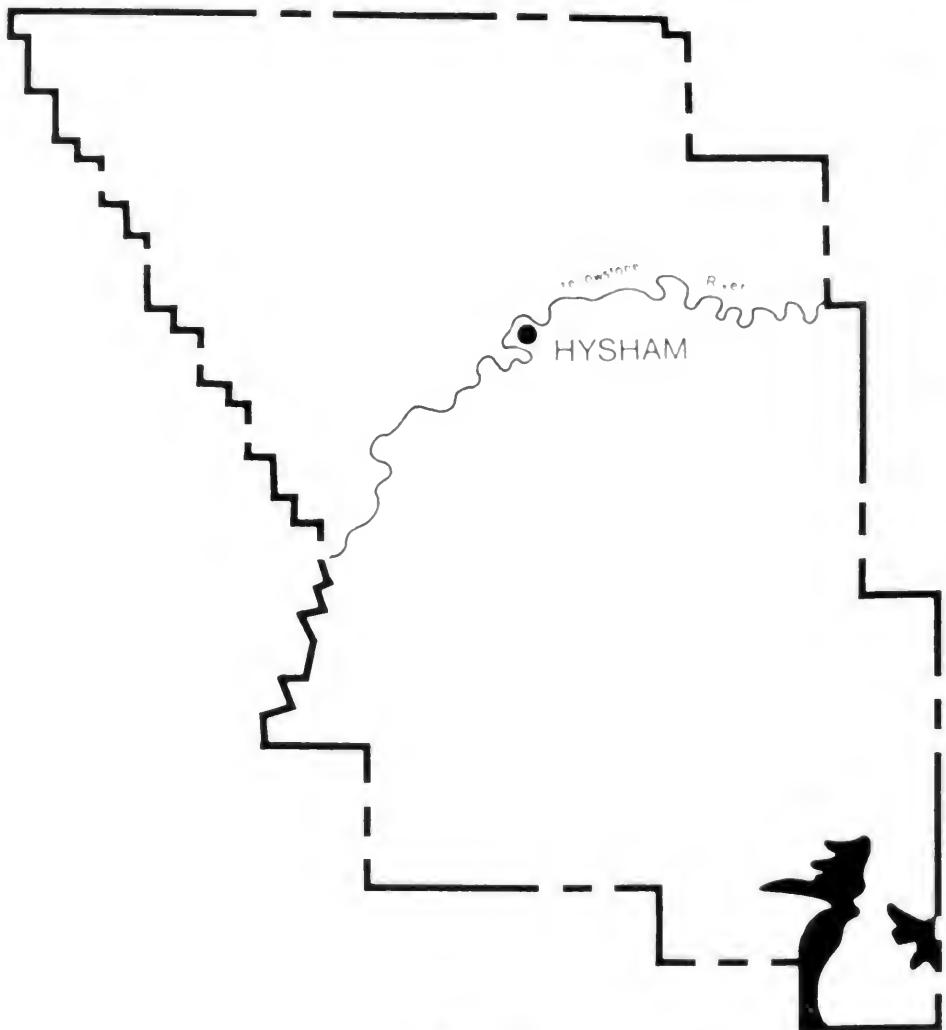
A keen desire is expressed for field contacts with the Coal Board on a continuing basis.

R O S E B U D S C H O O L D I S T R I C T

According to the school superintendent, most of the information the school district receives regarding coal development and its potential impact has been from television reports and occasional publications. Currently, the school buildings in Rosebud have plenty of room for student enrollments, but if the impact that is anticipated in the southern part of the District due to recent zoning changes occurs, some future help may be required. A real concern, however, is expressed that the tax base has become static and the operational costs of existing and future facilities may be difficult to meet as inflation continues to rise.

The District may very well need to look to co-operative enrollment with other Districts to lessen these operational expenses, thus creating another whole set of problems.





Treasure County,
Montana



T R E A S U R E C O U N T Y

Treasure County has the ultimate problems of Coal development. They receive considerable impact from people moving in and basically no increase in their tax base to school, house and service these same people. According to the County Commissioners, the County is taxing at the maximum, roads are being torn up with heavy load traffic, crime has increased and equipment and operational needs cannot be met adequately.

Currently, the Comprehensive Plan is being updated and a good process of priority setting is well established. As Coltrip Units 3 and 4 are developed, a massive impact is expected, but the facts and figures are difficult to determine. Several new families have already (Fall 1979) moved in for Colstrip Units 3 and 4 construction and an appeal for considerable help in the Spring (1980) has been made by local officials.

The County Commission is unsure of any coal development in the southern portions of the county where coal deposits are known. If and when this mining occurs, some relief may be found by an increase in the tax base. In the meantime, Coal Board assistance has been appreciated and probably will continue to be sought. Having someone in the field to assist and advise is desirable, particularly in knowing first hand what is happening.

Y E L L O W S T O N E C O U N T Y - L A U R E L

No overall review was made of Yellowstone Count, for this report. The Consultant's analysis was limited to the City of Laurel and its school system at the request of the Coal Board. Initial concern by local officials center around the validity of population and production statistics given the State. They feel this is terribly important because efforts to meet the impacts must be started two years in advance to place a community or a school in a position to absorb the impact.

A sincere effort to meet the local impacts is being made, however, Laurel officials note that "direct" impact areas receive some tax base to assist them in meeting capital as well as operational needs whereas an "indirect" impact area receives no tax base to help. Given these concerns, Laurel would like to have someone "in-the-field" to keep data flow, projections and timetables all synchronized.

SUMMARY OF COMMUNITY NEEDS

S U M M A R Y

COUNTY	CITY	NO. OF DAYS PER MO.	COMMENTS
BIG HORN	Hardin	1½	One day per month to work with the city and county in general is needed, however, <u>additional time</u> in the field - Spring Creek, Decker etc., <u>may be necessary and advisable.</u>
Lodge Grass		½	Currently, at least <u>one half day</u> per month is advisable - <u>more if possible</u> - many real resource inadequacies need to be addressed. <u>Perhaps coupled with extra one half day with Big Horn County</u> may be adequate at this time.
CARBON	Bear Creek	0	Bear Creek is in good condition for its current population. However, <u>if coal mine is in fact developed</u> <u>considerable help will be needed</u> <u>at once</u> . Keep close to mine development.
Red Lodge		0	Currently, city needs a lot of help in <u>several</u> areas, but <u>no current real impact due to coal development</u> <u>would justify Coal Board assistance</u> <u>of this type at this time</u> . When mine determinations are firm - then assistance will be needed. Stay close to <u>mine development</u> .

COUNTY	CITY	NO. OF DAYS PER MO.	COMMENTS
CUSTER	Miles City	0	The area could use effectively at least <u>one day per month assistance</u> , but <u>no current coal impact relationship warrants Coal Board support for this type of assistance at this time.</u>
MUSSELSHELL	Roundup	1	Currently in need of suggestions, advice and sharing of data with other communities. Have desire to be prepared in advance. <u>Area is being impacted now</u> , though it is difficult to put finger on specifics. Community <u>has desire for Coal Board to be aware of on-site problems and impacts.</u>
POWDER RIVER	Broadus	½	Currently could adequately <u>use one half day at least each month</u> . When impact is more imminent, considerable more assistance is advisable.
ROSEBUD	County Commission	1	<u>The local officials feel current concerns are in hand</u> , though help is needed in Birney and Ashland areas. Need some regular contact perhaps in conjunction with Foothills City and Schools along with Rosebud Schools. <u>Suggest one day per month spread between each of these jurisdictions.</u>
	Ashland	1	<u>As an unincorporated community, Ashland has special needs</u> . Initially considerable time is needed to help the community. Burden will taper off until mine application is submitted

COUNTY	CITY	NO. OF DAYS PER MO.	COMMENTS
			and then another period of heavy need for quite some time. <u>Because of the nature of their needs, not all should be spent in the field - considerable work with other agencies will be necessary, particularly the Department of Community Affairs.</u>
Colstrip		1	Considerable liaison and assistance at this time would be valuable due to the immediacy of impact and its fall out to other jurisdictions. <u>Many concerns, if met early here, will lessen impact in other areas.</u>
Forsyth City		-	See County Comment
Forsyth Schools		-	See County Comment
Lame Deer Schools		-	Periodic contact on a <u>drive through</u> basis would be beneficial for the Coal Board and the School. Keep close to impact analysis of coal development.
Rosebud Schools		-	See County Comment
TREASURER	Hysnam	1	Already receiving impact from Colstrip Units 3 and 4 though major construction has not begun. Have sincere desire to be involved with Coal Board through regular field assistance. <u>At least one half day</u>

COUNTY	CITY	NO. OF DAYS PER MO.	COMMENTS
YELLOWSTONE	Laurel	0	<p><u>per month currently with more assistance in the Spring when construction begins in order to assist the City and County in the field addressing problems of impact.</u></p> <p>Both the city and school district feel impact from the Burlington Northern Coal car maintenance shop and have desire for close liaison with the Coal Board. <u>However, due to the nature of assistance, Coal Board office help would probably suffice with periodic field visits.</u> <u>No regular Field Assistance is suggested at this time.</u> Keep close watch on future coal related developments.</p>



